IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims presented for examination are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to;

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and

a search result display unit which displays parts which resulted from the search process unit, in order based on the reference number,

wherein the electronic manual consists of:

(1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or

(2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part when the user selects and/or refers to the part among parts which are displayed by the search result display unit.

4. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part displayed immediately before the user stops displaying of the search results.

5. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

6. (Previously Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

7. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table is incorporated into the electronic manual.

8. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table stores the reference number for each attribute of the user.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:
a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, a reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to; and
a search process unit which searches contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number
wherein the electronic manual consists of:
(1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or
(2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary, the method comprising the

steps of:

storing, for each part, a reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and

displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the reference number

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

14. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying an electronic manual wherein the electronic manual consists of information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program or is searching of an electronic dictionary, comprising:

a plurality of parts; and

a reference number of each part, the reference number representing the number of times the corresponding topic is referred to as searched results, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to; wherein contents of each part are searchable in order based on the reference number.

15. (Previously Amended) The recording medium of claim 14, wherein

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the reference number is stored for each attribute of a user who refers to the part as searched results.

1   16. (Previously Amended) The recording medium of claim 17, further

2 comprising: displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search

3 results, in order based on the reference number.

1   17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer,

2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to

3 perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a

4 plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

5   storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the

6 part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by

7 automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the

8 past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has

9 been referred to; and

10   searching contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in

11 order based on the reference number,

12 wherein the electronic manual consists of:

13   (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an

14 application program; or

15   (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

1   18. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier

2 wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a

3 processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

4   storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number

5 expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference

6 number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to

7 as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times

8 the respective topic has been referred to,

9 wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched

10   by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic

11   dictionary;

12   searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein

13   contents of each part are searched in order based on the reference number; and

14   displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results,

15   in order based on the reference number.

1   19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising, computer

2   readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable

3   instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable a computer to operate

4   according to the steps of:

5   storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number

6   expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the

7   reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been

8   referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the

9   number of times the respective topic has been referred to,

10   wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched

11   by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic

12   dictionary;

13   searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the

14   searching searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number;

15   and

16   displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the

17   reference number.